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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): O'Toole, Jr., et al.  
Serial No.: 09/864,487  
For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING THE  
ARRANGEMENT OF NODES IN A NETWORK  
Filing Date: May 24, 2001  
Examiner: Not Yet Known  
Art Unit: 2152

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Date: June 2, 2003

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**MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

The applicants respectively request entrance of this Preliminary Amendment prior to examination.